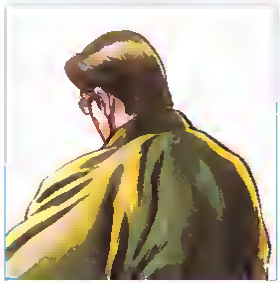

原　哲夫

めずらしく早朝、起きて熱海の十国峠を編集長のN氏とタクシーで登りました。頂上近くになると、富士山もきれいに見えてます。手に隆先生のお好きだった、お酒と缶ビースを持って、墓前に立つ。今回、影武者徳川家康・第二部を描くにあたって、主人公を島左近に替えたり、原作の小説と違った趣になりそうなこと等、御報告とお許しを得ることを兼ねて、手を合わせ祈りました。すると、雲が流れて陽がさしてきました。

●月刊少年ジャンプH9年5月号～8月号掲載分収録

LOVE
JC

JUMP COMICS

関ヶ原 1

漫画・原　哲夫
原作・隆慶一郎
脚本・二橋進吾

左近 SAKON

―戦国風雲録―

左近 SAKON 戦国風雲録 1
漫画 原 哲夫
原作 隆慶一郎
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ジャンプ・コミックス

ジャンプコミックス

BASTARD!!	1～18	萩原一至
影武者徳川家康	1～6	原一郎・原哲夫
SAKON-戦国風雲録	1	原哲夫・堀江信彦
SLAM DUNK	1～31	井上雄彦
ショージの奇妙な冒険	1～54	荒木飛呂彦
BOY ーボーイー	1～24	梅澤春人
キャプテン翼 ジュニア編	1～17	高橋陽一
地獄先生ぬ～べ～	1～20	真倉翔・岡野剛
NINKU ー忍空ー	1～9	桐山光侍
るろうに剣心 ー明治剣客浪漫譚ー	1～17	和月伸宏
セイントすーしょ!!マサルさん	1～6	うすた京介
封神演義	1～6	藤崎竜
遊☆戯☆王	1～4	高橋和希
みどりのマキバオー	1～13	つの丸
魁!!男塾	1～13	にわのまこと
幕末志士伝 直島クンすっとばす!!	1～7	木多康昭
「s(アイズ)」	1	桂正和
仏ゾーン	1～2	武井宏之
人形草紙あやつり左近	1～4	写楽彦・小畑健
MIND ASSASSIN	1～5	かずはしめ
WILD HALF	1～8	美姫子
魔女娘ViVian	1～3	高橋ゆたか
Merry Wind	1	山本純二
Wrestling with もも子	1	穂弘正也
ナノブ ステノブ賞 SELECTION	1～19	
ライバル番外編! ～2		柴山
爆骨少女ギリギリぶりん	1～4	柴山
!!～アイル～	1～3	麦田弘幸
かっとび一斗	1～41	門馬もとき
わたるかびゅん!	1～41	なかいま強
イレブン	1～35	七三太朗・高橋広
エンジェル伝説	1～10	八木教広
タブル・ハート	1～12	今野直樹
宇強の大空	1～2	梶研吾・岡村賢二
地獄甲子園	1～2	漫画太郎
つきあってよ!五月ちゃん	1～4	林崎文博
トリームメイカーズ列伝	1	九十九森 零留加かっみ
Mr Clice(ミスタークリス)Part! ～2		秋本治
こちら葛飾区亀有公園前派出所	1～104	秋本治
鳥山明作劇場	1～3	鳥山明
とっても!ラッキーマン	1～16	カモウひろし
花さか天使テンテンくん	1～2	小栗かずまた
ショッキングBOY	1～2	市宮亨
快傑幕気探偵団	1～4	麻宮騎亜
風のシモン	1～2	坂口いく
自由人HERO	1～9	柴田亜美
ハット・トリック	1	山下東七郎

★各巻とも好評発売中!!

This is an adaptation of the novel
Kagemusha Tokugawa Ieyasu (published by
Shinchosha) arranged in shonen manga format

★この作品は、小説『影武者徳川家康』(新潮社刊)をもとに、少年漫画誌向けにアレンジしたものです。

JUMP COMICS

SAKON

左近 ―戦国風雲録―

Record of the Upheaval of the Warring States

Volume 1: Sekigahara

Manga: Tetsuo Hara

Original Work: Keiichiro Ryu

Script: Shingo Nihashi

SAKON 左近

戦国風雲録

Record of the Upheaval of the Warring States

Volume 1: ***Sekigahara***

Chapter 1:
Sekigahara 5

Chapter 2:
Bonds of Lordship 73

Chapter 3:
The Arrest of Mitsunari 111

Chapter 4:
The Execution of Mitsunari 147

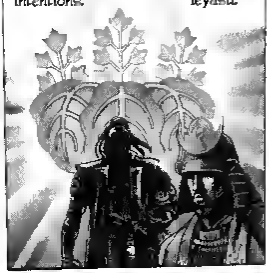
It was the Age of the Warring States...
In 1598, (Keicho year 3) the ruler of the nation, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, had died.
The next contender for the nation was...
Ishida Mitsu-nari!
And the one who rose in opposition to him was one of the [illegible] trates...
The Head of the Five Elders, Tokugawa Ieyasu!
Chapter 1:
Sekigahara

Ishida Mitsunari was a man of honor.

He felt deeply indebted to Hideyoshi, who had raised him as his own son, and he had no intention of ruling the nation himself.

And there was one man who understood Mitsunari's intentions.

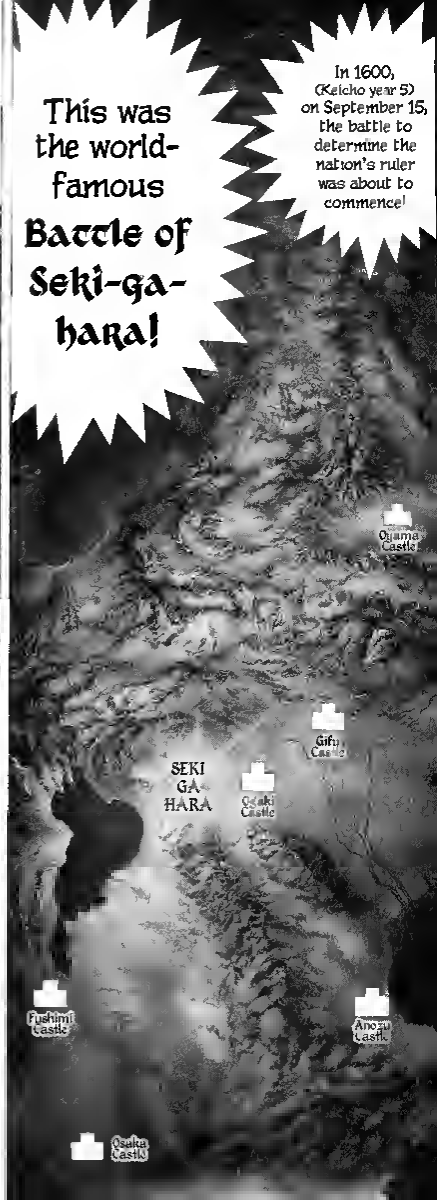
Instead he rose up to protect the Toyotomi Clan from Tokugawa Ieyasu.



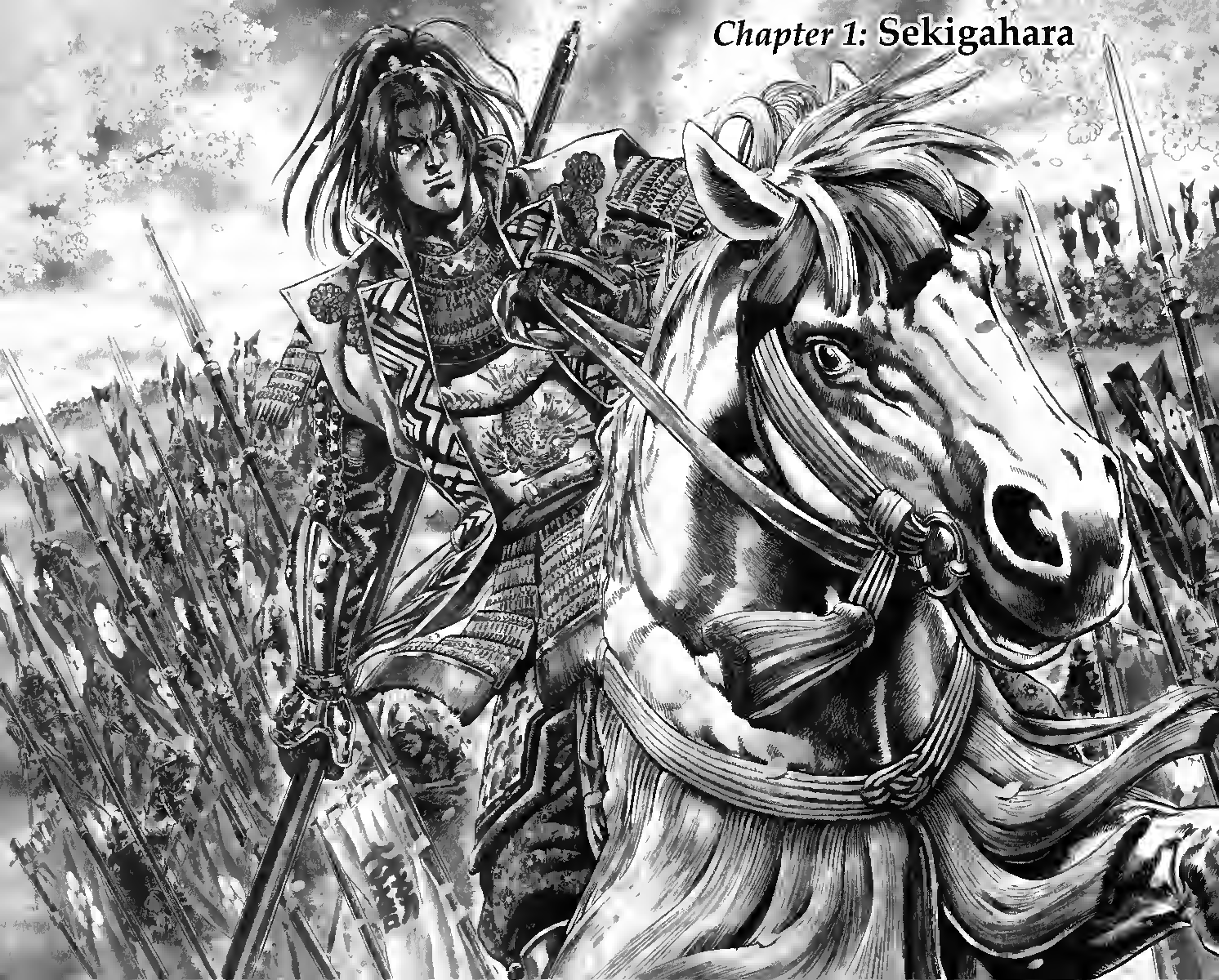
This was the world-famous

Battle of Seki-ga-hara!

In 1600, (Keicho year 5) on September 15, the battle to determine the nation's ruler was about to commence!



Shima no Sakon, and the castle of Sawayama.
Mitsunari had in his possession two things too good for him:
At least that is what was said about him. The *Jozan Kidan* also adds that Mitsunari was only able to hire him by giving him half of his forty-thousand-koku fief.

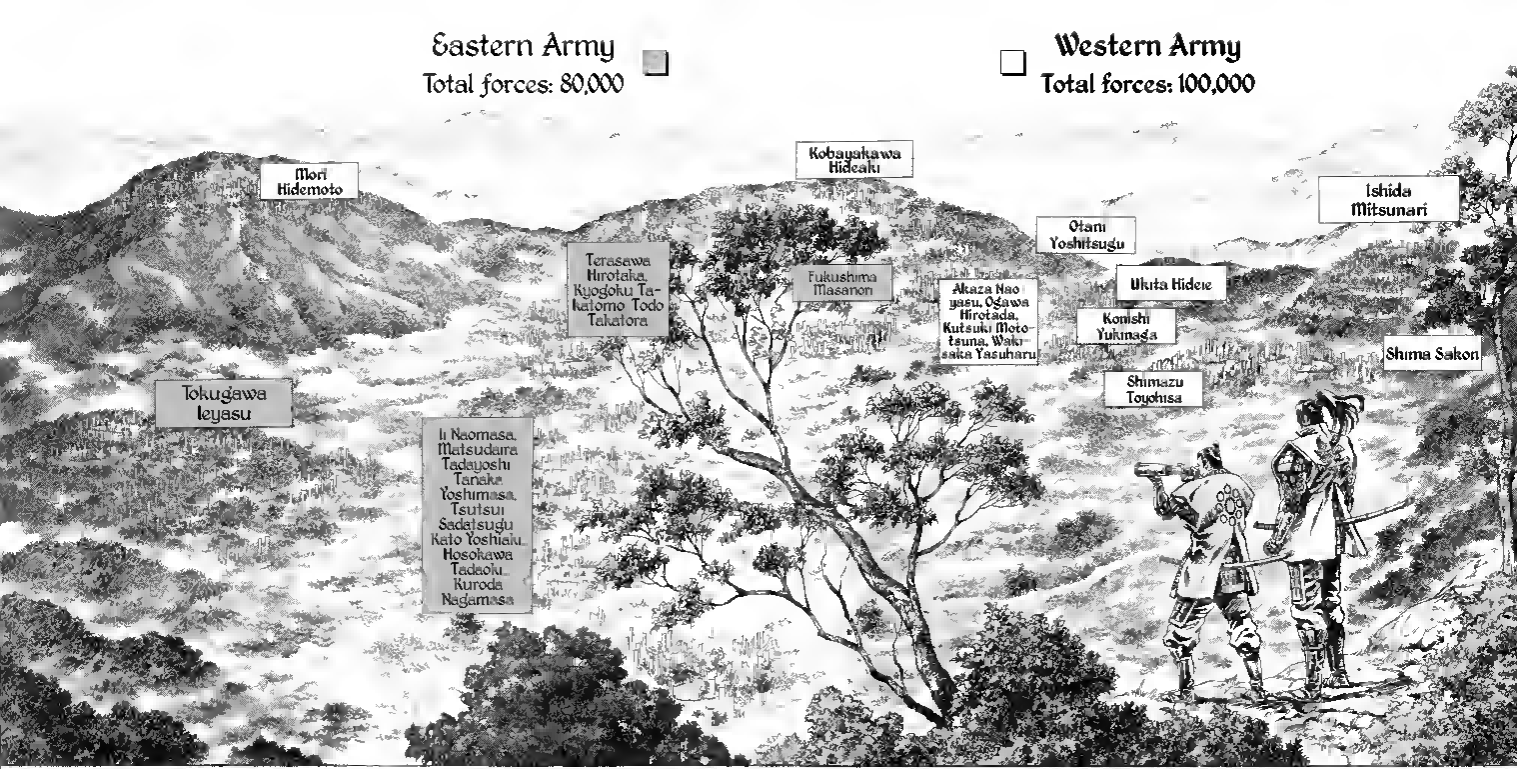


Chapter 1: Sekigahara

HMM ...
Shima
Sakon
Katsu
take

WHAT IF THEY FIND US?
AND BESIDES, AS THE GENERAL, IT'S NOT SAFE FOR ME TO BE HERE!
THIS WILL GIVE YOU A GREAT VIEW, LORD MITSUNARI.
Morning of the Battle of Sekigahara
W-WAIT, SAKON !!
T-THIS IS ENEMY TERRITORY! WHAT ARE YOU THINKING!?

W-WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SEE?
THE DEATH ...
OF THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, TOKUGAWA IEYASU!!
W...
WHAT !?
W- WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
KCH ...
UHH ...


Eastern Army
Total forces: 80,000
Western Army
Total forces: 100,000
Mori Hidemoto
Kobayakawa Hideaki
Ishida Mitsunari
Otani Yoshitsugu
Terasawa Hirotaka, Kyogoku Takatomo Todo Takatora
Fukushima Masanori
Akaza Naoyasu, Ogawa Hirotada, Kutsuki Mototsuna, Wakisaka Yasuharu
Ukita Hideie
Konishi Yukinaga
Shima Sakon
Shimazu Toyohisa
Tokugawa Ieyasu
Ii Naomasa, Matsudaira Tadayoshi Tanaka Yoshimasa, Tsutsui Sadatsugu Kato Yoshiaki, Hosokawa Tadaoki, Kuroda Nagamasa

W-WHAT?
THIS BATTLE!
WE'RE GOING TO LOSE...
DO YOU REALLY...
S...SAKON... I CANNOT APPROVE OF SUCH TACTICS!

!
I HAVE SENT AN ASSASSIN.

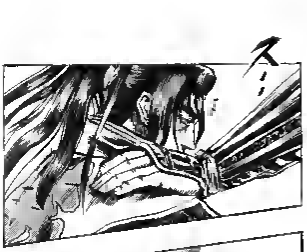
HOW CAN WE LOSE?
AND IE-YASU HAS ONLY EIGHTY THOUSAND!!
WE HAVE A HUNDRED THOUSAND MEN!!
Ishida camp
D-DON'T BE RIDIC-ULOUS! LOOK!
Ieyasu camp

YOU SAID WE COULDN'T PUT OUR TRUST IN EITHER MORI ON MT. NANGU, OR KOBAYAKAWA ON MT. MATSUO, DUE TO THE POTEN-TIAL FOR THEIR BETRAYAL.
Mori Hidemoto
LAST NIGHT... YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, MY LORD
DO WE REALLY HAVE SUCH A FAVORABLE POSITION?
Kobayakawa Hideaki

THAT MEANS WE HAVE A MERE THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND MEN WE CAN TRULY TRUST!
AND YOU WERE RIGHT.

THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN POSSIBLY WIN!
AND IF THAT DOESN'T PLEASE YOU, THEN YOU MAY CUT OFF MY HEAD!
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY OUT!

YOU WOULD GO THAT FAR...
Y-YOU WOULD ...
Y-YOU ...



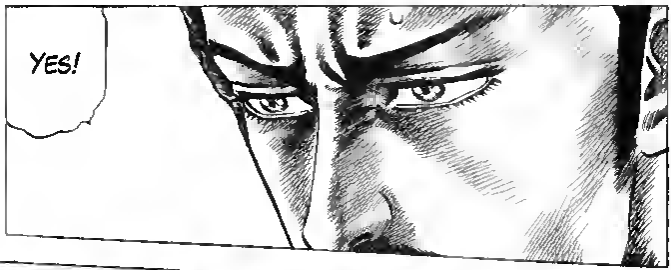
I'M SORRY, SAKON.
EVERYONE IS RIGHT WHEN THEY SAY YOU ARE TOO GOOD FOR ME.

FOR ME ...

BUT I CAN TELL THAT YOU HAVE DONE ALL THIS TO SHIELD ME FROM DEFEAT.
ARE A MAN TO WHOM VICTORY OR DEFEAT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE.
YOU...

MY LORD ...

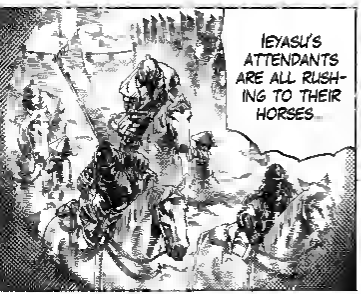
THE REST IS IN HEAVEN'S HANDS!
MY LORD ...


YES!

Amidst the silence...
Nearly two hundred thousand men held their breath and waited for the battle to start...
That day, there was a heavy mist on Sekigahara.

It was eight in the morning!!
AH!
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
YES.
THE BATTLE HAS JUST BEGUN.
S-SAKON, I CAN'T TELL WHAT'S GOING ON IN ALL THIS MIST!

!?
THIS IS OUR ONE CHANCE TO KILL IEYASU.
INDEED.


IEYASU'S ATTENDANTS ARE ALL RUSHING TO THEIR HORSES.

HE WILL SOON SPRING INTO ACTION.
THE NINJA I SENT IS LYING IN WAIT AMONGST IEYASU'S TROOPS

IEYASU !!

ｺﾞｸﾘ !!
HE WILL BE AT HIS MOST VULNERABLE WHEN HE MOUNTS.

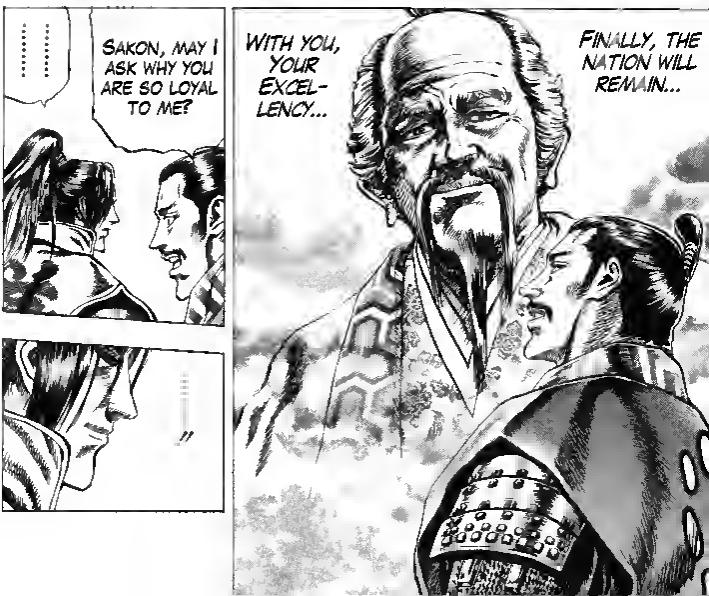
Minister of the Interior, Tokugawa Ieyasu

ゲラ…

HE'S DEAD!!
...RO-KURO ...!!

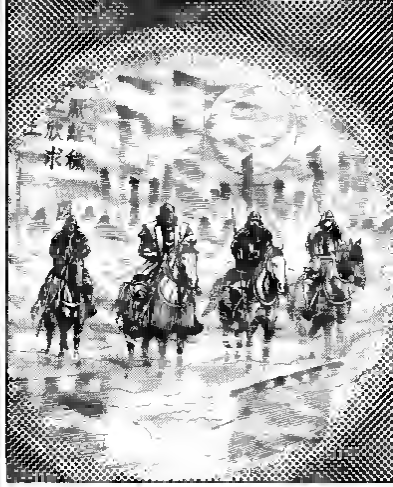
WHAT IS IT, SAKON?
.....
THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR OF EDO, TOKUGAWA IEYASU...
WAS STABBED TO DEATH.
.....!!
I... I SEE...
...HE'S DEAD...

F... FINALLY...
BUT AT LEAST THE BATTLE IS OURS!!
I'M STILL UNEASY ABOUT THIS...


.....
SAKON, MAY I ASK WHY YOU ARE SO LOYAL TO ME?
"
WITH YOU, YOUR EXCEL-LENCY...
FINALLY, THE NATION WILL REMAIN...

I'VE BEEN DEAD TO THIS WORLD.
BECAUSE EVER SINCE I WAS NINE YEARS OLD...
WE MUST REPORT THE DEATH OF THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR
WELL, LET US RETURN TO OUR CAMP.
T... THAT'S TRUE.
HMM!?
!

IEYASU !?
I- ISN'T THAT ...



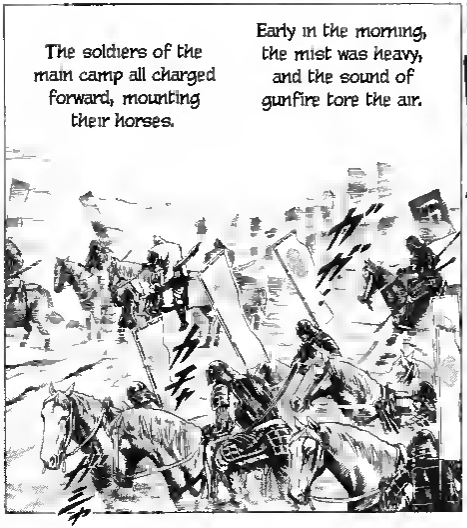
T- THAT'S STRANGE ...
W- WHAT !?

!!

I DO NOT KNOW...
JUST WHO IS THAT!?
W...
WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

IS THAT WE ARE STILL AT A DISAD-VANTAGE!
THE ONLY THING I CAN SAY...
BUT ...

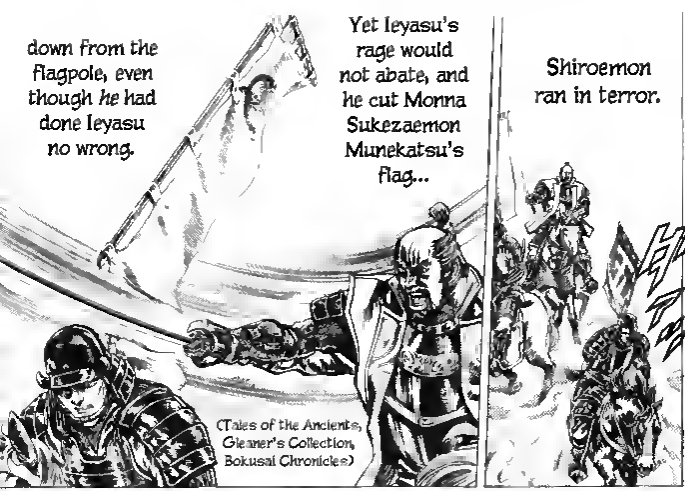
This clever shadow warrior had boldly hidden Ieyasu's corpse amidst the camp and had taken his place.
Sakon's prediction was correct.
Shadow Warrior
Serada Jirosaburo Motonobu
much is written on Ieyasu's stabbing, and the episode that followed.
In the records and chronicles of Sekigahara...
Why is this!?
IT WAS ALL HIDDEN BY THE MIST...


The soldiers of the main camp all charged forward, mounting their horses.
Early in the morning, the mist was heavy, and the sound of gunfire tore the air.

Let us relive the scene from the *Account of Tokugawa* and find out.

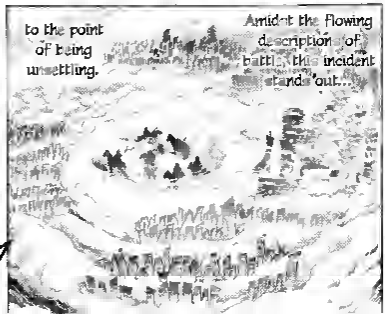
Ieyasu drew his sword and swung at him.
of inciting Ieyasu's wrath by riding his horse against his lord's.

Though it is uncertain which camp he was in...
Nonomura Shiroemon Nangashi made the mistake...


down from the flagpole, even though *he* had done Ieyasu no wrong.
Yet Ieyasu's rage would not abate, and he cut Monna Sukezaemon Munekatsu's flag...
Shiroemon ran in terror.
(Tales of the Ancients, Gleaner's Collection, Bokusai Chronicles)

"This was but a brief show of strength, as Nonomura was apparently not reprimanded for it afterwards." But this seems like a poor excuse all the same.
The writer of the Account added his own thought
This episode was truly strange, for it was extraordinary that a leader should try to kill his own man immediately before battle. Moreover, the action was out of character for this mild man of fifty-nine.

Thus... The hidden truth of this history is...


to the point of being unsettling.
Amidst the flowing description of battle, the incident stands out...

And so it was that the real Tokugawa Ieyasu died that day!! But who then was the man who tried to kill Nonomura...!?
that Sakon's ninja, Rokuro of Kai, disguised himself as the attendant Nonomura Shiroemon, drew his horse close, and then stabbed Ieyasu!
Ieyasu had a shadow warrior who was his double, and his name was Serada Jirosaburo.
HOW DARE YOU KILL MY LORD!
It was a shadow warrior!

It was at that moment, that Serada Jirosaburo became Tokugawa Ieyasu.
And so, the wounded Rokuro managed to escape with his life.
WHAT? A SHADOW WARRIOR?
YES.
I HAD HEARD THAT IEYASU HAD A DOUBLE
D-DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! WHAT CAN A SHADOW DO?

The West had the advantage, but only 35,000 soldiers out of 100,000, commanded by Minister of Justice Otani, actually took part in the battle.

Sakon and Mitsunari returned to their camp, and reported that the Minister of the Interior had died.

IT'S TRUE, A SHADOW COULD NOT BE A GENERAL.

HE COULD NOT COMMAND AN ARMY.

This caused Kobayakawa to betray the Western army, and to attack Minister Otani's forces with his fifteen thousand troops.
The camp of the Western army, under Kobayakawa Hideaki, who had kept silent until now, suddenly received a volley fire from Ieyasu's (that is, the Shadow Warrior's) lines.
ズドドドドド…
ズドドドドオン
!!
K-KOBA-YAKAWA'S BETRAYED US!!

COULD GET SO FAR!
HEHHE... TO THINK A SHADOW WARRIOR...
ドドド...
ワアア
As more and more generals turned coats... the Western Army collapsed.
MY LORD !!
S-SIR SAKON, WHAT SHALL WE DO?
HEH... SO WE LOST.

T-THAT'S THE CHERRY BRANCH HE ALWAYS KEEPS ON HIM....
MOTHER...
THE DAY HAS FINALLY COME.

MOTHER
...
MOTHER
WHY?

WHY DID YOU DO THAT?
W-WHY?
F-FATHER'S STILL INSIDE ...
AND FATHER CAN'T MOVE FROM HIS INJURIES!
HUH !?
FROM THIS DAY ON, YOU MUST LEARN TO LIVE ALONE!
SAKON!

SHOULD KNOW WHY YOUR FATHER IS LIKE THAT.
YOU...
.....
WHY, MOTHER !?
W... WHY !?
AND SO HE LED OUR ALLIES TO VICTORY. HOWEVER...
YOUR FATHER FOUGHT WELL FOR OUR SAKE AND FOR THE CLAN'S SAKE.
HE WAS UNEXPECTEDLY WOUNDED BY THE ENEMY...
AND NOW HE CAN'T EVEN STAND ON HIS OWN.

YOUR FATHER LOVED THIS SEASON WHEN THE CHERRIES BLOSSOMED.
.....
HIS... OWN LIFE ...
HE CAN'T EVEN END ...
HE WANTED TO REST PEACEFULLY UNDER THE BEAUTIFUL CHERRY TREES....
HE ASKED TO DIE NOW.
MUST VENTURE FORTH TO THE AFTERLIFE AT HIS SIDE.
THAT'S WHY YOUR MOTHER...
THAT'S WHY...
.....

THIS IS WHERE YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER WILL DIE.
NOW YOU MUST UNDER-STAND.
WHAT ...?
M-MOTHER ...

.....

IN HONOR OF OUR MEMORY.
TAKE THESE CHERRY BLOSSOMS ...
BURY OUR BONES UNDER THE LARGEST CHERRY TREE.
AND WE WILL VISIT YOU EVERY YEAR AS BLOSSOMS.

I DON'T WANT YOU TO DIE, MOTHER!
NO!
UHH... GGH...
UHH...
T-THEN TAKE ME WITH YOU ...
I-I WANT TO TAKE YOU WITH US!!
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE YOU ALONE, EITHER!

A PLACE WHERE YOU WILL DIE!
YOU MUST FIND FOR YOURSELF ...
THIS ...
IS NOT WHERE YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO DIE.
HUH !?
MOTHER !!
ULUHH AHHH
ULULH
!!

DO NOT FOLLOW ME!!
U... UAAH ...
...AHH ...AHH ...
DRY YOUR TEARS.

LIKE THAT CHERRY TREE THAT COVERS BOTH THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH...
SAKON!
YOU MUST BECOME A GREAT MAN!

THEN YOU WILL FIND THE PLACE...
WHERE YOU WILL DIE AS A WARRIOR...
M-MOTHER !!
!

But no one really knew that the death of his parents would turn him into a dead man, one who would hide the word death inside the word duty.
Now, Shima Sakon was also a man of duty... So it was only natural for him to love a man like Mitsunari, who fastidiously lived for duty as well.
義

Note: The character 義 *duty* has been slightly altered to include 死 *death* instead of 我 *I*.

THIS IS WHY I CAN'T STOP FIGHTING! HAHHAH HAH!
THIS BATTLE IS TRULY AMUSING !!
WA HA HA HA HA !

LET THE FLOWERS OF OUR DEATHS BLOOM MAGNIFICENTLY!
LISTEN. DO NOT LET A SINGLE EASTERN SOLDIER LEAVE HERE ALIVE!
なや!
And his army, after experiencing a brief state of despair, were now mesmerized.
Sakon was enjoying the battle...
W-WHAT GOOD HUMOR HE CAN KEEP UP AMIDST ALL THIS.
L-LORD SAKON!
M-MY LORD!
オオオ
FOLLOW MY LEAD!!
THIS IS WHERE SAKON CHOOSES TO DIE!
PLEASE ESCAPE, LORD MITSUNARI...

AND TAKE ISHIDA MITSU-NARI'S HEAD!!
LISTEN UP!! THE ENEMY IS ALL BUT DESTROYED!! WE JUST HAVE TO SLAY SHIMA SAKON...
ドドド
HMM !?
Tanaka Yoshimasa of the Eastern Army
WHAT!? W... WHO'S THAT...!?
ドドド

FWAH!
HUH?

DO
RYA
AAAA
AAAA
AAH
!!

UOOO
RAAAA
AAH!!

And Tanaka Yoshimasa's army was said to have been forced back over 300 meters in the blink of an eye. Tanaka Yoshimasa was later reported to have said that Sakon's army looked like dead men, as each of them had prepared themselves for death that day.

The battle waged by Shima Sakon and his men was said to have been so brutal that it would be told of for generations to come.

Sakon's voice resounded with the power of Death himself. The Eastern Army turned white and dashed about like startled chickens.

ドドォ!!
M-MY LORD!

SHIMA SAKON HAS BEEN SHOT DEAD!
YOUR HEAD IS MINE!
ALRIGHT! NOW'S OUR CHANCE!
NO, IT'S MINE!

PGEE
EEH!

U-UWA AAH!
W-W-WHAT!?
W...
A-AIE EEE!
AWA WA ...
I DON'T WANNA DIE!
UWAA AUGH! H-H-HELP ME!

ended, as you very well know, with the West's defeat... The history books clearly say that Shima Sakon was shot to death. And yet!!... After the battle, Sakon's head was nowhere to be found...!!
The Battle of Sekigahara...

WAH HAH HAH HAH HAH HAH!
ORA AAA AAA AH!
HGYAA AAH!
HELP! RETREAT !!!
UGYA AAAH! HE'S A MONS-TER!

SAKON 左近 ＝戦国風雲録＝

Chapter One

Presented by Hokuto no Gun
Translated by SystematicChaos
Proofread by LoverOfHokuto & Wright
Edited by Akromata

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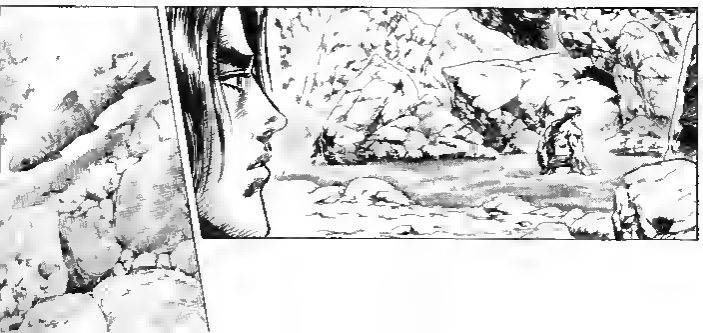
In Keicho Year 5 (1600), the Battle of Sekigahara that divided the nation ended with Tokugawa Ieyasu and the Eastern army's victory.
Shima Sakon, general of the vanquished Ishida Mitsunari, was said to have been fatally shot.
However...!!
What is the truth concealed by history...!?

Chapter 2:
Bonds of Lordship

Chapter 2: Bonds of Lordship

OH...
I GUESS...
I'VE FINALLY RETURNED TO MY MOTHER AND FATHER...
MMM ...



N-NO, MY LORD!
YOU MUSTN'T GET UP, OR YOUR WOUNDS WILL REOPEN!
OOH ... OWWW ...
OW!

Originally a ninja of the Takeda, he came to be employed by Shima Sakon after years of vagrancy. At Sekigahara, he was the master hand who assassinated Tokugawa Ieyasu.
SO AT LAST YOU'RE AWAKE AGAIN?
Rokuro of Kai
YES.
.....
ALIVE, ROKURO ...
YOU'RE ...
MY LORD, TAKE THIS...
ABOUT FIVE DAYS.
...HOW MANY DAYS HAVE PASSED?
SO I SUPPOSE WE SURVIVED SEKIGAHARA.

YOU'RE RIGHT! NOT A SCRATCH!
.....
OH, SO IT IS.
SOMEHOW IT SURVIVED THAT HARSH BATTLE UNSCATHED.
IT'S THE CHERRY BRANCH YOU ALWAYS KEEP ON YOUR PERSON.

YOU MUST FIND YOUR PLACE OF DYING FOR YOURSELF!
SAKON ...
.....

HAVE A DESTINY !?
THAT I STILL...

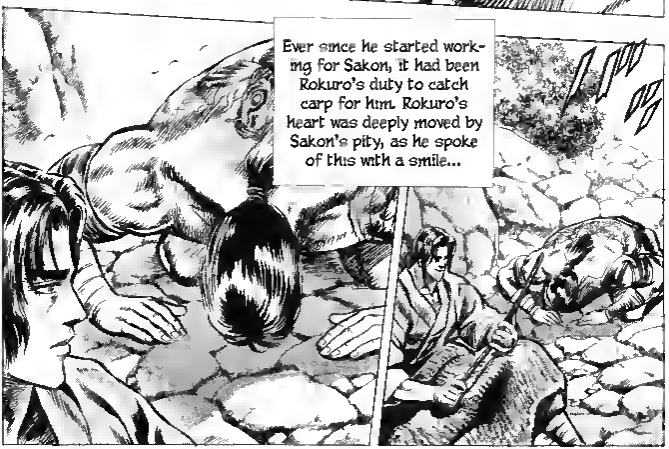
MOTHER, ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT I CANNOT DIE HERE?

I APOLOGIZE FOR MY INCOMPETENCE.
.....

I WAS SO ENGROSSED IN THE TASK OF KILLING IEYASU THAT I FORGOT ABOUT THE SHADOW WARRIOR.
TO THINK THE SHADOW WARRIOR WOULD GO SO FAR...

I'M IMPRESSED YOU FOUND MY MOTHER'S MEMENTO...
AND FINISH OFF THAT SHADOW WARRIOR!
I WILL RETURN TO ENEMY TERRITORY...
ONCE YOU ESCAPE SAFELY, MY LORD ...
!
YOU KILLED IEYASU! THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH!
WAR IS A LIVING THING, ROKURO.
THAT'D MAKE ME HAPPIER!
MORE IMPORTANTLY, IF I COULD EAT THAT CARP YOU CAUGHT...

MY LORD ...
M-

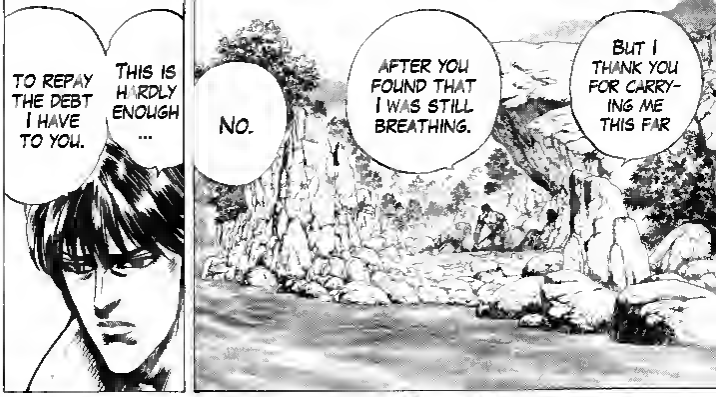

Ever since he started working for Sakon, it had been Rokuro's duty to catch carp for him. Rokuro's heart was deeply moved by Sakon's pity, as he spoke of this with a smile...

AND I EXPECTED TO SOON SEE MY MOTHER AND FATHER AGAIN.
MANY A TIME I HAVE DREAMED THAT I WAS SLEEPING UNDER THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS...
.....

BUT THIS TIME, WHEN I CAME TO, I REALIZED SOMEONE WAS BEARING ME AWAY.
!?
THEN I SAW A BLOODY CARP.

BUT WHY DID YOU GET THAT TATTOO?
I'M IMPRESSED YOU CARRIED ME THIS FAR WITH THOSE WOUNDS.
.....
YOU ASKED ME TO CATCH A CARP FOR YOU AGAIN.
WHEN THIS WAR WAS JUST STARTING ...
BE-CAUSE IT WAS YOUR BACK!
THEN I THOUGHT "I CAN'T EAT THAT!"

I SEE.
Normally, a ninja's pride lies in going unseen and unrecognized, but this ninja had allowed himself an identifying feature! That meant inevitable doom!
But Rokuro's carp tattoo was a symbol of his oath to Sakon, and it meant that killing Ieyasu would be his final act...
YOU, ALSO, PLANNED TO DIE AT SEKIGAHARA...
WAS THE HEAD OF TOKUGAWA IEYASU!!
AND THAT CARP ...


TO REPAY THE DEBT I HAVE TO YOU.
THIS IS HARDLY ENOUGH ...
NO.
AFTER YOU FOUND THAT I WAS STILL BREATHING.
BUT I THANK YOU FOR CARRYING ME THIS FAR

The event to which he alluded had taken place six years before... When Rokuro had been employed by Sakon for about a year.

GAAAH!

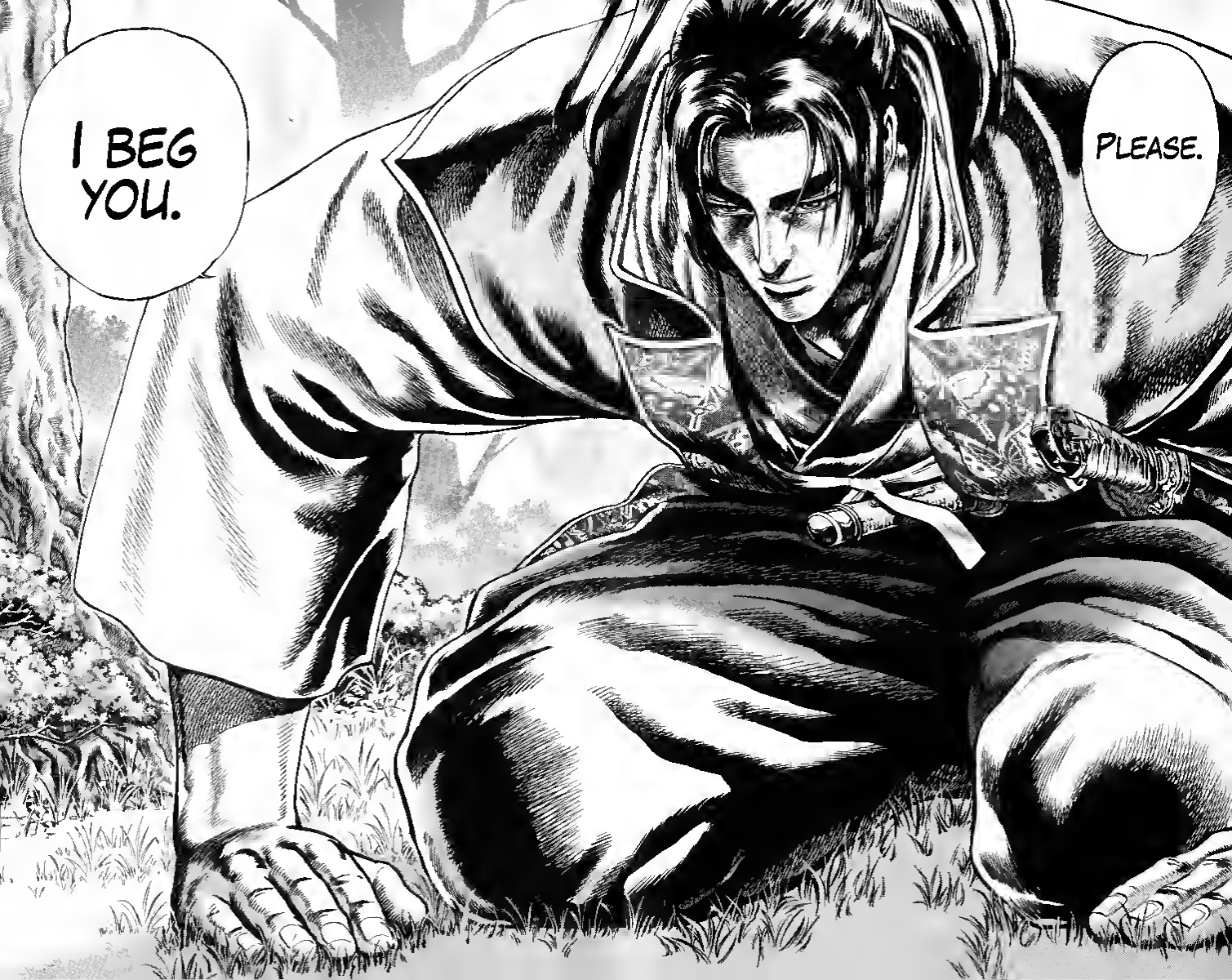
Rokuro was in love with his old master Tanuma's daughter... He fled when the master discovered this, but the family's hunters found and caught him...
HEHE HE...
Despite his skills as a ninja, Rokuro did not try to kill or evade his pursuers.
HEY ...
Because as a renegade ninja who had abandoned the world, Rokuro was satisfied to die for the woman he loved.

HEY!
I SAID, HEY!
HEY!
.....
HUH?
CAN'T YA HEAR ME?
KILL... ME...
YOU PIECE OF SHIT.
HUU UH?
SAY SOME-THING!

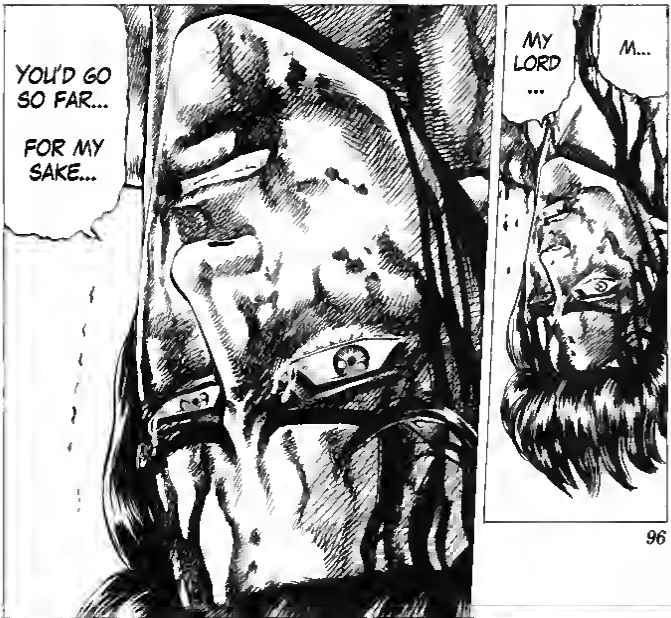
YOU FLED AFTER PUTTING YOUR HANDS ON LORD TANUMA'S DAUGHTER! OUR REVENGE HAS FINALLY COME!!
WE CAN'T HAVE THAT!
I BET YOU WANNA DIE!
YOU WANNA DIE!?
BUT ...
YOU WANT TO BE PUT OUT OF YOUR MISERY!
ONE ...
TWO ...
WE'LL CASTRATE YOU AND MAKE YOU A EUNUCH!!
NOW, SO YOU CAN'T FUCK AROUND IN HELL...
GE HA HA HA!

THR-
...
I THINK THAT'S PUNISH-MENT ENOUGH.
WHO ARE YOU!?
W-WHAT!?
!?
"LORD" ...?
HUH ...?
M-MY LORD!
NO, I DO.
W-W-W-WHAT THE HELL? YOU GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!!

But you don't *have* to get so angry just because he stole the woman you liked
I heard a little bit of the conversation
Mind letting him off the hook?
Ishida Mitsunari's chief retainer...!!
S-Shima Sakon!
W... which means that Rokuro was serving...
It's not for *me*! I-I can't let him off lightly when it's my lord who is angry with him...!!
I— I never said that!
Huh...? Liked?
Nngh...
Huh?
No matter what!?
Oh, so you won't pardon him.


I BEG YOU.
PLEASE.

HUH
...
!!


M...
MY LORD
...
YOU'D GO SO FAR...
FOR MY SAKE...

IS BOWING HIS HEAD TO SAVE A MERE NINJA... HOW GREAT A MAN CAN HE BE...!?
OH-HO... THE GREAT SHIMA SAKON...
にや
WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR THIS GUY FOR YEARS, SO WE CAN'T JUST LET HIM LIVE ...
HEHE... WELL, THIS IS A PROBLEM... YOU'RE GOING SO FAR, BUT...
IS THIS SWORD JUST FOR SHOW!?
HUH? WHAT'S THE MAT-TER?
HUH ?
WHY WON'T YOU JUST GET MAD?
WHAT A SORRY STATE FOR SHIMA SAKON!
C'MON, C'MON, C'MON!

ガバッ
WHOA!
THE SWORD IS THE SOUL OF A WARRIOR.
TO TRAMPLE THAT SOUL UNDERFOOT IS A GRAVE SIN!

W-
WANNA
FIGHT?
AND YOU ARE PLANNING ON STOMPING OUT ROKU-RO'S LIFE.
YOU HAVE STRAYED FROM THE PATH OF A WARRIOR!

I'LL CUT YOU DOWN!

AND WE'RE ALL MASTERS OF THE KASHIMA SHINTO STYLE, SO PREPARE YOURSELF!!
YOU CAN'T WIN AGAINST SO MANY OF US!
YAAA AAAA AH!

HEH.
EEEK!
HUH ?
UEH!

AA
AA
BA
RA
AH
!

AO
UGH
!
W-WHAT-
WHAT'S UP
WITH HIS
SWORD!?
EHH
HHH
...

It's stab could pierce rock or skull, its slash could rend bone and muscle, and its strike could smash muscle and bone alike. This sword, named Sumihomura, was Sakon's battle sword and one he would carry his whole lifelong.

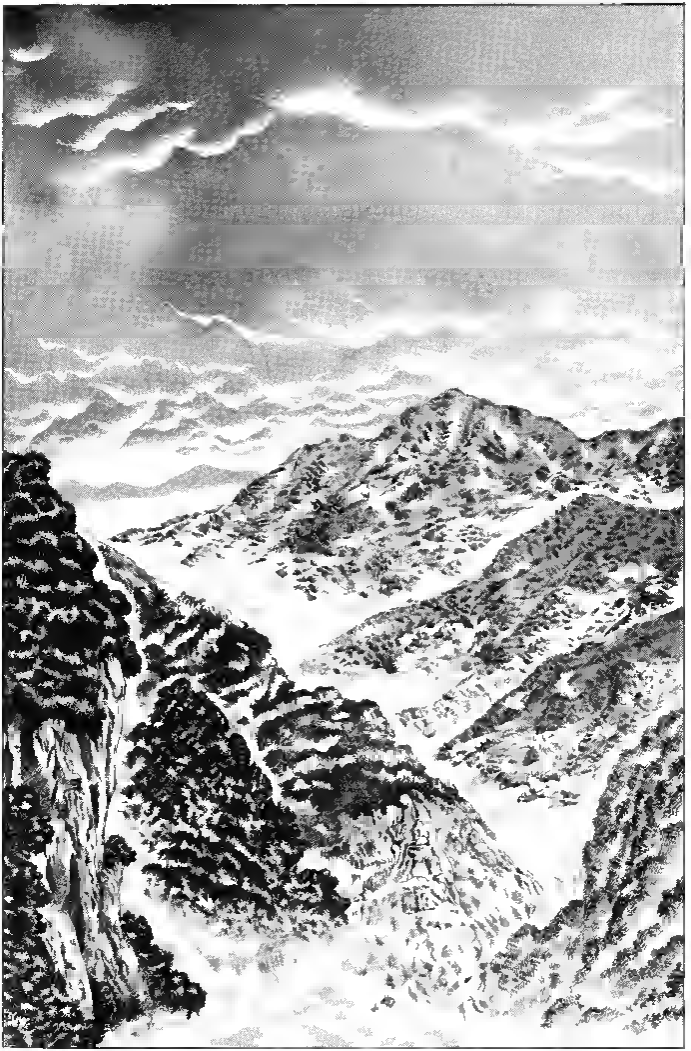
WAHAHAHAHA!
THAT WAS GREAT!
YEAH, I REMEMBER THAT!
YOU DID NOT MERELY SAVE MY LIFE. IT WAS THEN I DISCOVERED THE PATH OF SERVING YOU.
SINCE THEN, MY LIFE HAS BEEN IN YOUR HANDS.

I SEE.
WE MAY HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS IN THIS WORLD.

Having triumphed at Sekigahara, Tokugawa Ieyasu celebrated his victory that evening with his generals at his camp at Fujifurukawa.
Now we will go back in time a few days.
IT WAS TRULY AN EXCELLENT COMMAND!
WELL DONE INDEED!
ONLY YOU COULD HAVE THOUGHT OF INTIMIDATING THE KOBAYAKAWA ARMY, MINISTER.
WELL ...
Fukushima Masanori
Kuroda Nagamasa
The only one who knew that Ieyasu had been replaced with the shadow warrior Serada Jirosaburo Motonobu was Ieyasu's close associate, Honda Tadakatsu...
NO, NO. I COULDN'T HAVE DONE THIS WITHOUT YOU, LORDS FUKUSHIMA AND KURODA. I, IEYASU, THANK YOU.
T-THANK YOU, MY LORD!

M-MY LORD, WHAT ARE YOU ...?
IF YOU MOVE NOW, YOU'LL DIE!
MY LORD...! YOU SURVIVED...
MY LORD!
LORD MITSUNARI HAS BEEN FOUND ON MT. IBUKI!
WHAT?

WE ARE GOING TO SAVE LORD MITSUNARI!!
THAT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS.



SAKON 左近 ―戦国風雲録―

Chapter Two

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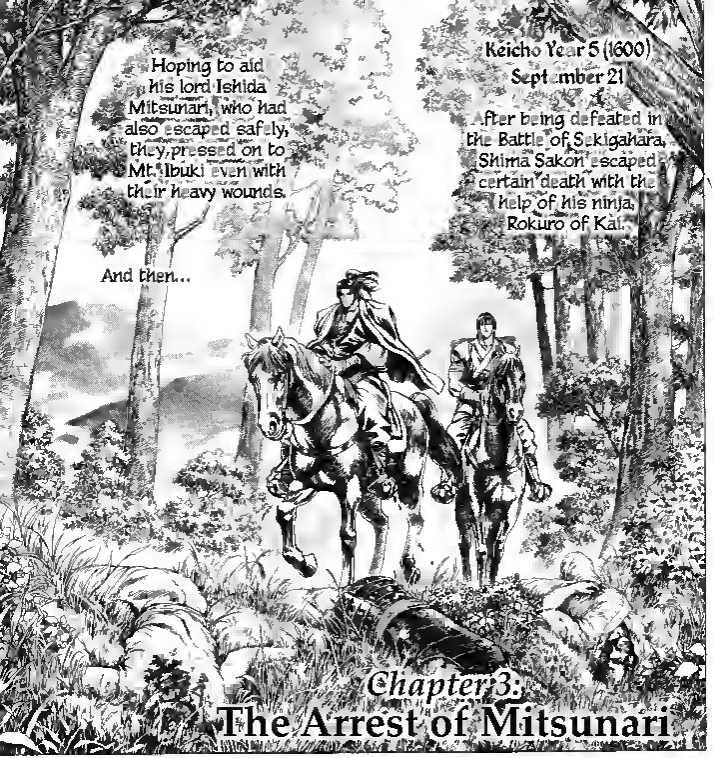
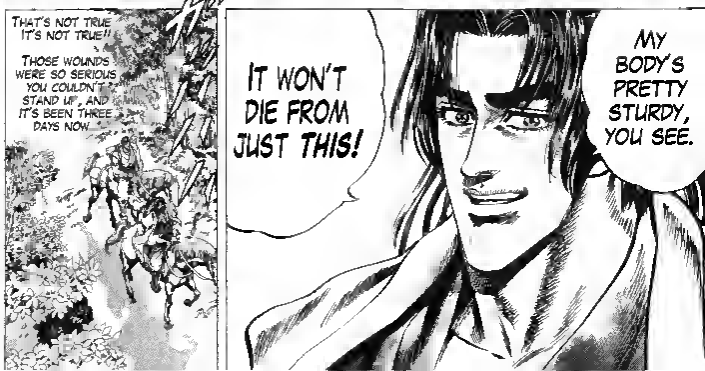

Hoping to aid his lord Ishida Mitsunari, who had also escaped safely, they pressed on to Mt. Ibuki even with their heavy wounds.
And then...
Keicho Year 5 (1600)
September 21
After being defeated in the Battle of Sekigahara, Shima Sakon escaped certain death with the help of his ninja, Rokuro of Kai.

Chapter 3: The Arrest of Mitsunari

Chapter 3: The Arrest of Mitsunari

IF HE COULD ESCAPE WITHOUT FALLING INTO ENEMY HANDS...
HE SHOULD BE PLANNING HIS RETURN TO OSAKA CASTLE, TOO! HAHAHA!
.....
!!
HMM !?
WHAT'S THE MATTER ?
!!.....
M-MY LORD, PLEASE ...
LET ME TREAT YOUR WOUNDS! AT THIS RATE, YOU'RE REALLY GONNA DIE!

HMM!? HEHHEH HEH...
YOUR BLOOD IS STAINING YOUR GARMENTS BLACK!


THAT'S NOT TRUE IT'S NOT TRUE!!
THOSE WOUNDS WERE SO SERIOUS YOU COULDN'T STAND UP, AND IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS NOW
IT WON'T DIE FROM JUST THIS!
MY BODY'S PRETTY STURDY, YOU SEE.

HMM ...
!!.....
TELL ME WHY!
WHY!? WHY WOULD YOU GO SO FAR FOR LORD MITSUNARI?
IT WAS FIFTEEN OR SIXTEEN YEARS AGO... RIGHT AFTER LORD MITSUNARI RECEIVED HIS FIEF FROM LORD HIDEYOSHI — 40,000 KOKU IN ALL — AND BECAME A LORD..
I HAD LEFT THE TSUTSUI CLAN AND BUILT A HERMITAGE IN TAKAMIYA.
IT WAS A RAINY DAY, AND NO VISITORS WERE EXPECTED
EXCUSE ME.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT LORD MITSUNARI WAS THINKING, BUT HE CAME TO SEE ME.
EXCUSE ME.

I IMPLORE YOU.

LOOKS LIKE... HE WANTS ME IN HIS SERVICE.

SIR SHIMA, THIS IS THE DEED FOR THE FORTY-THOUSAND KOKU FIEF THAT LORD HIDEYOSHI HAS GIVEN ME.
!?

IN THE END...
HE NEVER GAVE UP, NO MATTER HOW OFTEN I REFUSED

I WAS DEAD TO THIS WORLD SERVING LORD ISHIDA, THE FAVOURED RETAINER OF HIDEYOSHI WHO WAS ABOUT TO RULE THIS NATION, WAS TOO HIGH A PERCH FOR MY LIKING.
I REFUSE.

下

I SHALL TAKE HALF ...
AND I PRESENT THE OTHER HALF TO YOU, SIR SHIMA.

!!
HE HAD THE AUDACITY TO TEAR THE DEED FROM LORD HIDEYOSHI IN TWO!

WE WILL BE EQUAL PARTNERS, NEITHER ONE OF US ABOVE THE OTHER!
NOW SIR SHIMA AND MITSUNARI ARE EQUALS!

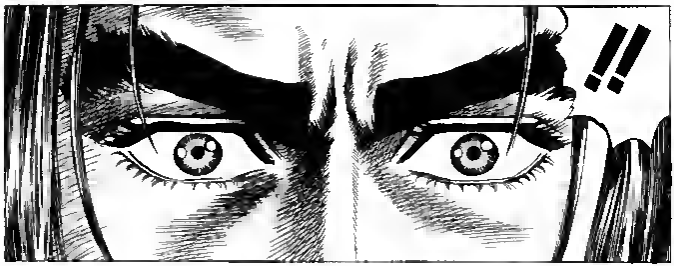
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
BUT MITSU-NARI WAS SINCERE
HOWEVER, ONCE HE BECOMES THE OTHER'S LORD, SUCH WORDS ARE REVEALED TO BE HOLLOW.
ANY MAN COULD SAY SOMEONE IS THEIR EQUAL OR THEIR BROTHER.
H-HE WENT THAT FAR?

BUT WE LACK SKILLS IN WARFARE.
AND I BELIEVE THAT YOU, SIR SHIMA, CAN MAKE UP FOR THAT.
AS YOU WELL KNOW, WE ARE QUITE PROFICIENT IN FINANCIAL MATTERS.

SO YOU'RE AFTER THE NATION, ARE YOU?
OH...
WE WILL BE UNPARALLELED THROUGHOUT THE NATION!
WITH OUR POWERS COMBINED,

THE TRUTH IS... I DON'T KNOW IF THIS..
IS SOMETHING... I SHOULD SAY, BUT
IS MY MOST FERVENT DESIRE!
THAT THE NATION BE PACIFIED UNDER LORD HIDEYOSHI...
NO... IT IS NOT MY AMBITION.

I DE-
SPISE
WAR!


!!

Would any self-respecting samurai, whose whole livelihood was based on war, admit that they hate war!? No! They would not!!
I WANT TO RID THE NATION OF WAR, IN LORD HIDEYOSHI'S NAME!!
FOR THAT, I NEED YOU, SIR SHIMA.
YOU AND I WILL MAKE A WORLD OF PEACE!
But Mitsunari was saying these unspeakable words to Sakon!! This nakedness of the heart was the sort of confession that could only bind Sakon to Mitsunari for life!
Right then... Sakon lost his heart to Mitsunari!

LIKE THAT CHERRY TREE, THAT COVERS BOTH THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH, YOU MUST BECOME A GREAT MAN!
LISTEN, SAKON!
IT WAS THEN THAT I REMEMBERED MY MOTHER AMIDST THE FLAMES.
A CHERRY TREE THAT COVERS BOTH THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH...
I MUST BE A MAN WHO WOULD COVER THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH IN HARMONY.
THIS MEANT HARMONY ...

MY MOTHER HAD LONGED FOR A WORLD WITHOUT WAR.
AND IT WAS LORD MITSUNARI WHO RE-MINDED ME.
IS THAT SO ...

I MUST SEE IT THROUGH.

GAA AH!
HEY! STOP RESIST-ING!
WE NEED YOU TO SUBMIT TO US, MINISTER.
THIS IS A PROB-LEM...
COUGH ...
GBBH ...

ARE YOU STILL RESISTING US, YOU VILLAIN, WHO TRIED TO TAKE THE NATION FROM LORD HIDEYORI!?
I'M JUST... NOT WELL NOW. THOUGH I AM THE DEFEATED GENERAL, IT IS PROPER COURTESY TO TREAT ME POLITELY.
YOU WERE GOING TO ESCAPE AND PLUNGE THE WORLD INTO WAR AGAIN! WE MUST PUNISH YOU NOW!
MY LORD !?
WE'LL HAVE TO RETREAT FOR THE MOMENT. WE CAN'T HOPE TO RESCUE HIM, NOT FROM ALL THOSE FORCES
WE'RE TOO LATE ...
...I GUESS ...

MY LORD !!
SHIMA SAKON KATSU-TAKE
IS HERE FOR YOUR RESCUE!!
W-WHAT ?
HMM !?
WHO IS THAT !?
LORD ISHIDA MITSU NARI!!
UH ...

YOU'RE... ALIVE...
Y... YOU'RE ...
S... SAKON !!
YES, SIR!
LET'S GO, ROKU-RO!!
I'LL AC-COMPANY YOU TO THE DEPTHS OF HELL!
KILL THAT DE-FEATED SOLDIER!
D-DAMN HIM!
YEA AAH !

WE'LL BLAST THEM AWAY!
TRAM-PLE THEM!!
ORARAAAAAH!!
ORAORAAAH!!
ORAAAH!!
U-UWA AALIGH !!
EEK !

I-IS HE THE REAL SHIMA SAKON?
UH
UH
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
ANYONE WHO WANTS TO BE KILLED BY SHIMA SAKON, STEP FORTH!!
HEH HAH HAH!
A... AHH... AHH... AHH...
HUH?

EEEEK!
OOOORAAAAAAH!!
S-SAKON...
H... HE'S GONE SO FAR IN THAT CONDITION...
EEK!
I'M COMING FOR YOU!!
LORD MITSUNARI!
HMM!?

GOU FGH !
MY LORD !!
……
!!
SA-KON !!
……

N... NOW!
MY LORD!
.....
CRUSH HIM AT ONCE!

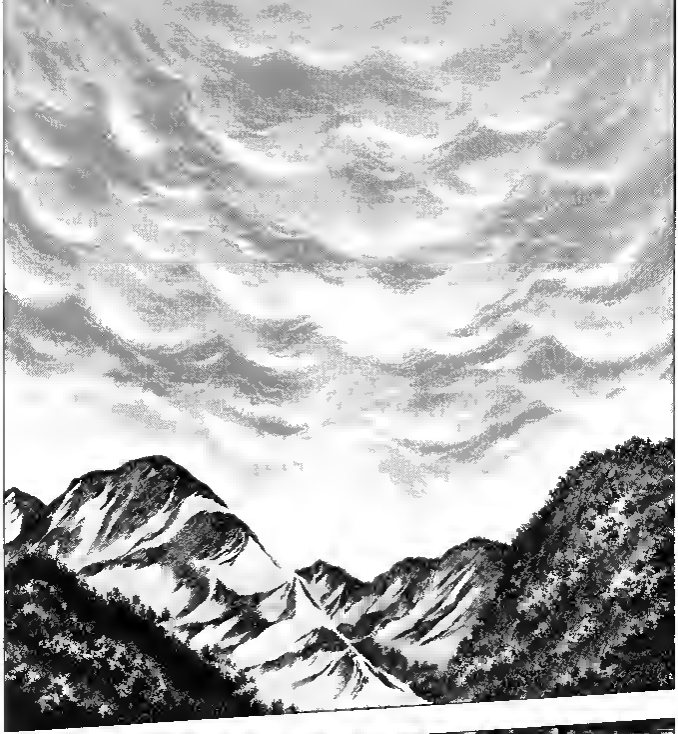
BB-
BWA AH!
AH!
WHAT !?
HUH? WHAT !?
I CAN'T SEE! I CAN'T SEE!
AH! MY EYES... THERE'S BLOOD IN MY EYES
UWAH!
OHH!
HABB BPF!

AHA AHGH !
BWA AH!

OU RYA RYAA AAH!
RG YAH!
BWE EEH!
AND ALL THIS JUST TO TELL ME THAT...
WHAT A MAN...
HE'S SAYING HIS DEATH IS NOT YET AT HAND...
THE STRENGTH IN THOSE EYES...
WE HAVE TO HURRY AND MAKE SURE HE NEVER GETS CLOSE TO LORD ISHIDA!!
W-WHAT A MONSTER! AT THIS RATE, HE'LL BE OVER HERE IN NO TIME!

MEETING A MAN AS GREAT AS YOU HAS MADE MY LIFE COMPLETE!
WAAH HAHA HA!

However!!... On September 21, Keicho Year 5 (1600), Ishida Mitsunari was arrested by Tanaka Yoshimasa's army, and on September 27, the Commander of the Western Army, Mori Terumoto, left Osaka Castle, and Tokugawa Ieyasu entered Osaka Castle, causing Sakon's plans for he and Mitsunari to return to Osaka Castle to fall apart... *And yet another tragedy was awaiting Sakon and Mitsunari...!!*
AS LONG AS I DRAW BREATH, THE BATTLE OF SEKIGAHARA CONTINUES!!



SAKON
左近
―戦国風雲録―

Chapter Three

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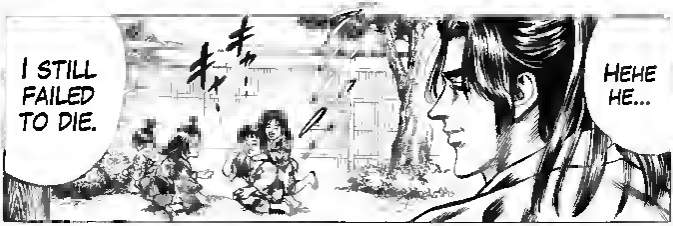
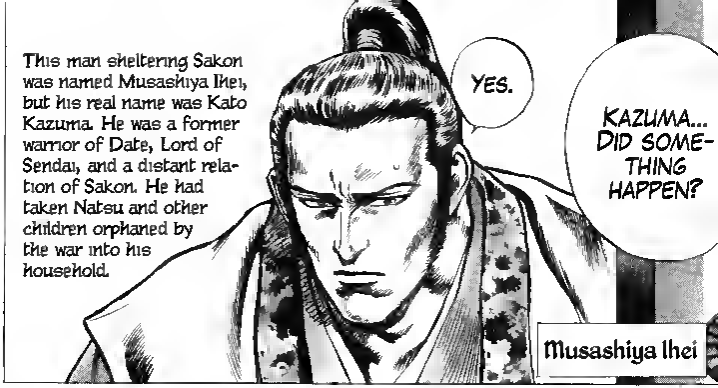
Chapter 4:
The Execution of Mitsunari

Kyoto
I STILL CAN'T BE-LIEVE IT!

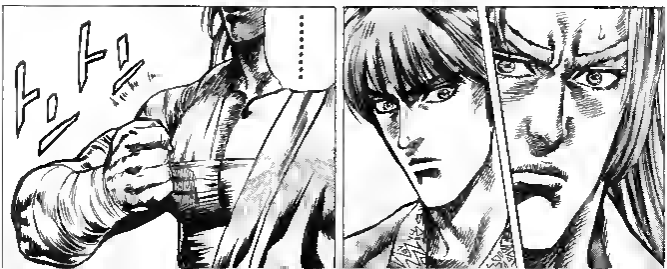
YET YOU MADE IT ALL THE WAY TO KYOTO!
YOU WERE SO HEAVILY WOUNDED...


I STILL FAILED TO DIE.
HEHE HE...

LORD SAKON.
!
WELL, I SUPPOSE THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE WITH YOUR BODY...
LORD SAKON, YOU CAN'T BE SO RECKLESS!
Natsu


This man sheltering Sakon was named Musashiya Ihei, but his real name was Kato Kazuma. He was a former warrior of Date, Lord of Sendai, and a distant relation of Sakon. He had taken Natsu and other children orphaned by the war into his household.
YES.
KAZUMA... DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
Musashiya Ihei

LORD ISHIDA MITSUNARI SHALL BE EXECUTED.
TODAY ...


トン トン
.....

KAZUMA, NATSU, THANKS FOR YOUR CARE.
YEP, ALL BETTER.
YES.
LET'S GO, ROKURO.
WHAT?
H-HOLD ON A SECOND!
HUH?

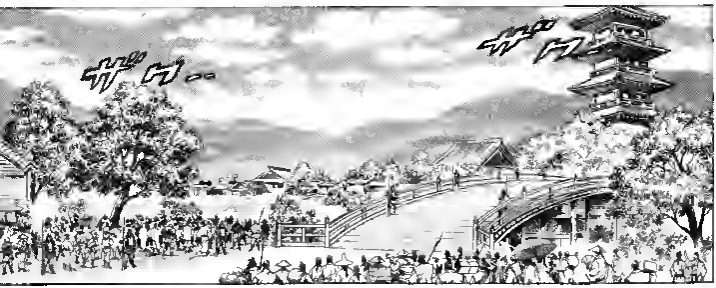
THE STREETS ARE SURE TO BE FILLED WITH LORD MITSUNARI'S GUARDS!
AND ESPECIALLY NOT JUST THE TWO OF YOU!
N-NOT IN YOUR CONDITION!

THEY'RE PROBABLY HOPING TO ARREST YOU, TOO!
AND THE RUMORS THAT SHIMA SAKON APPEARED AT MT. IBUKI HAVE SPREAD TO KYOTO!

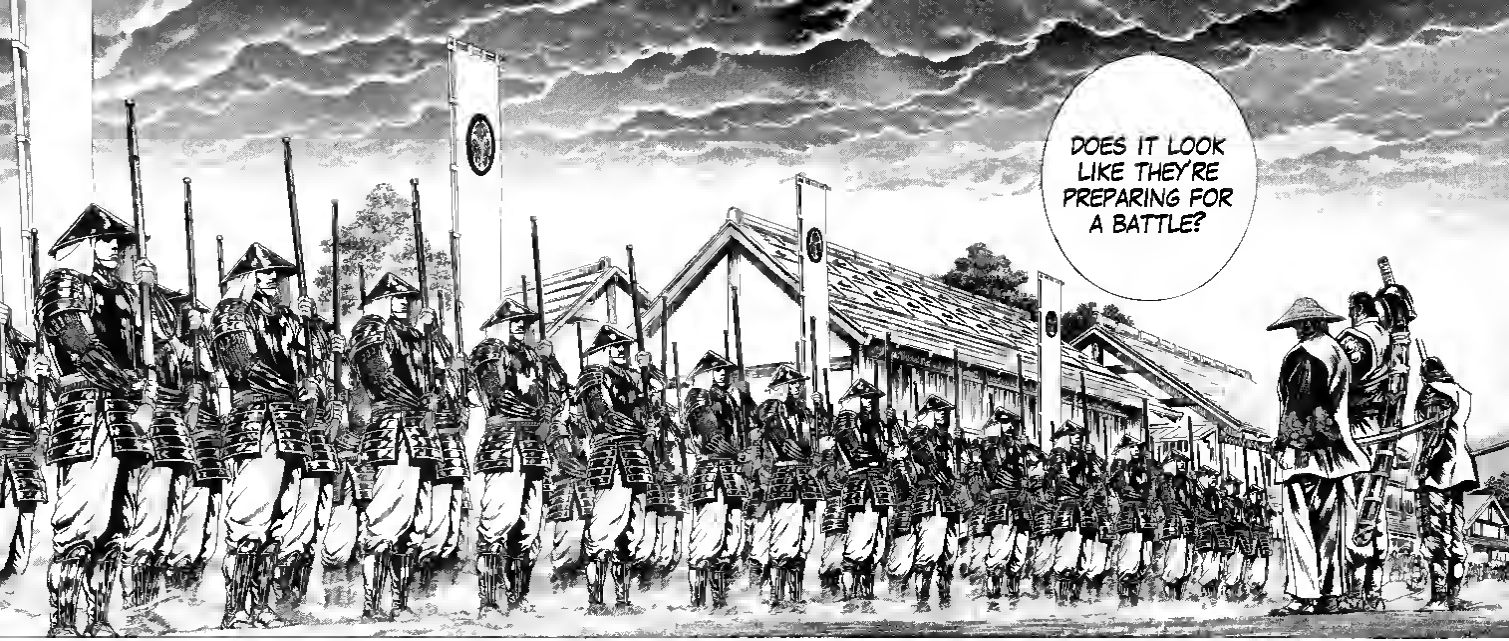
HUH !?
SURE IS A PLEASANT SOUND.
THE LAUGHTER OF CHILDREN...

I...
MUST GO.

.....



IT'S JUST AN EXECUTION! WHY...
YEAH
HEY... BUT DON'T YOU FIND THAT A LITTLE STRANGE...?
RIGHT YOU ARE!
THIS IS FINALLY THE LAST WE'LL HEAR OF ISHIDA MITSUNARI!


DOES IT LOOK LIKE THEY'RE PREPARING FOR A BATTLE?

Munenori had joined the Battle of Sekigahara as a ronin with only twenty other men, but had failed to make a name for himself.
Why Munenori was given this many troops to oversee the execution of Ishida Mitsunari, the Western army's leader... the history books never say.
Yagyu Matae-mon Mune-nori

HE AIN'T NORMAL, I TELL YOU. HE MUST BE ONE RE-SPECTABLE GENERAL.
NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE ...
BUT I'M GETTING CHILLS JUST LOOKING AT HIM!
GUESS THE MAN WITH THE RAIN HAT IS THE GENERAL.
WHO IS HE?

CAN A HUMAN EVEN USE THAT?
LOOK AT THE SWORD OF THE BIG MAN NEXT TO HIM!
AND LOOK ...
THAT'S MORE UNNERVING THAN THOSE GUNS!

Yagyu Hachi-tora
YOU'RE SURE...
THAT SHIMA SAKON WILL SHOW HIM-SELF?
IT WAS INDEED THE REAL SHIMA SAKON THAT APPEARED AT MT. IBUKI.
AND HE IS NOT A MAN WHO WOULD MISS TODAY... THE LAST MOMENTS OF MITSUNARI!
HEHE HE...
HIS DEATH AT OUR HANDS CAN ONLY RAISE THE NAME OF THE YAGYU.
WE WILL TAKE THE HEAD OF SHIMA SAKON!

Mean-
while
...
Serada Jirosa-
buro, Tokugawa
Ieyasu's shadow
warrior, who had
entered Osaka
Castle...

WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO ME?
SI-I-IGH...

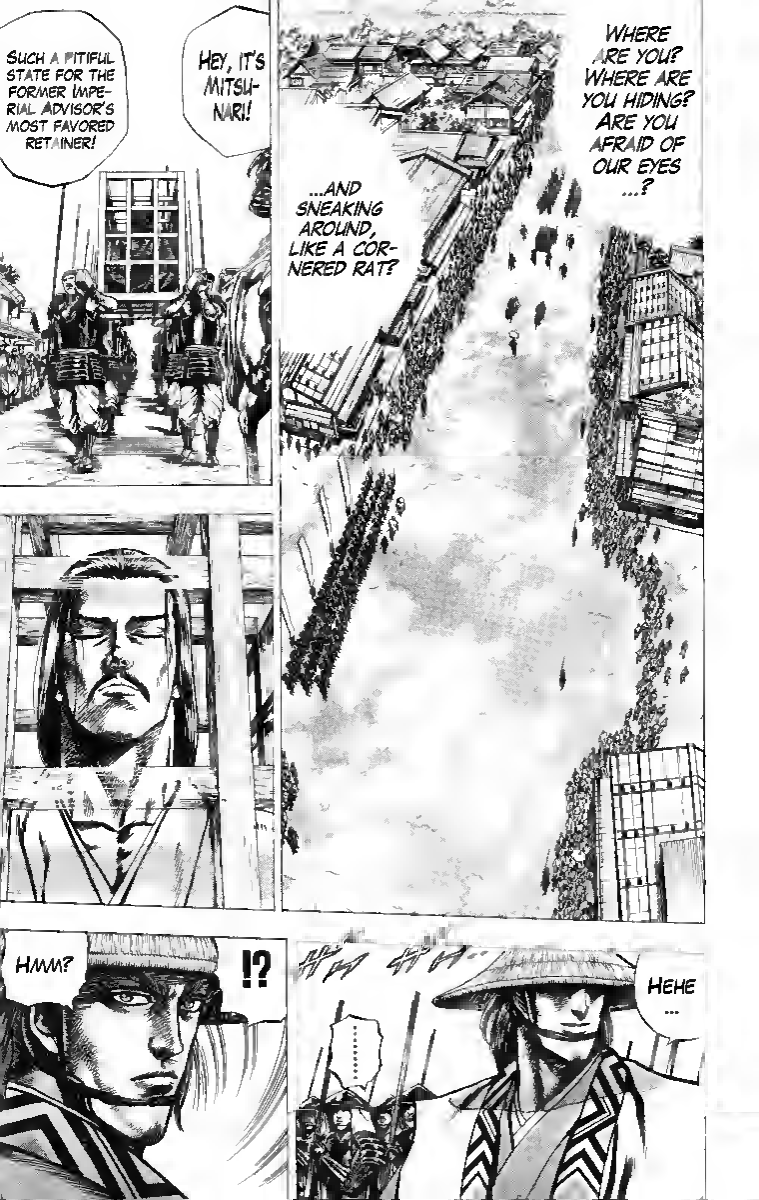
THIS VULGAR BEHAVIOR IS SO UNLIKE YOU, LORD IEYASU.
SIR...
UH... K...

SHUT UP!

AND THE TOYOTOMIS' STRENGTH DWINDLES DAILY.
TODAY, ISHIDA MITSUNARI WILL BE EXECUTED...

WHEN THAT HAPPENS, I'LL BE DISPOSED OF!
SOON THE NATION WILL BELONG, BEYOND QUESTION, TO THE TOKUGAWA!
BUT!

I AL-READY HAVE A PLAN, JUST IN CASE!
BUT I WON'T LET THEM JUST KILL ME!
H-HE'S HERE! ISHI-DA MITSU-NARI HAS COME!
SO HE'S HERE.
HEHEHE... SHIMA SAKON...
YOU SHOULD BE HERE SOON, TOO.


Such a pitiful state for the former Imperial Advisor's most favored retainer!
Hey, it's Mitsunari!
Where are you? Where are you hiding? Are you afraid of our eyes ...?
...and sneaking around, like a cornered rat?
Hmm?
!?
Hehe ...

H... HE'S HERE!!
IT CAN'T BE!
I-
SAKON!
!!
WH- WHO'S THAT ARMORED WARRIOR!?
.....
.....
!!
.....

WAH !
EEK !
GUN SQUAD, STEP FORWARD !!
TO THINK HE'D COME HEAD-ON
HEHEHE... HOW AUDACIOUS

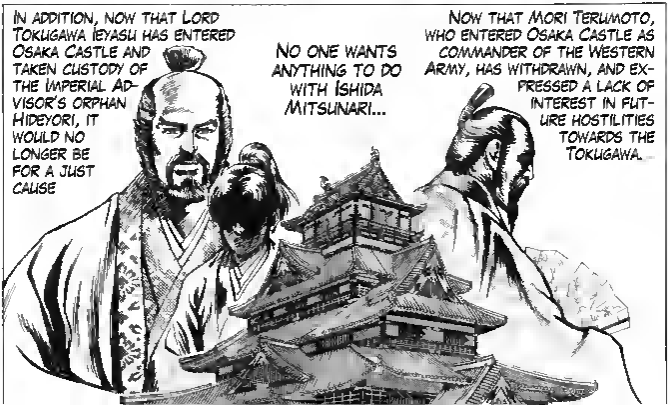
GWAH!
WHOA!
!!
People feared it was the curse of the dead of the Western Army,
and they all froze in fear.
The chilling sounds reminded them of the battle of Sekigahara just ten days ago.
The explosives that Rokuro had set up in advance had a greater effect than anticipated.
UWAA AUGH!
AAAAH! W-WHAT'S GOING ON?
WA UGH!
HYA AH!

ARE YOU SAFE?
YES.
LET HIM BE. THIS WILL BE A SIGHT WORTH SEEING.
DAMN HIM!!
HEHE... HE DID NOT COME TO SAVE MITSUNARI.
WAIT.

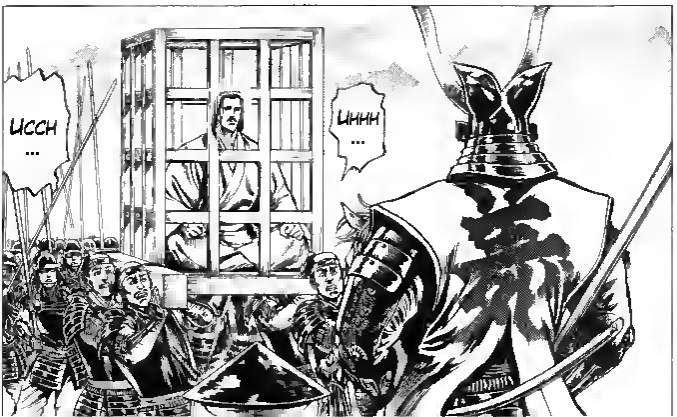
HE HAS COME HERE TO DIE.
I FEAR ...
HUH?

MITSUNARI HAS NOWHERE TO FLEE.
EVEN IF HE RESCUES ISHIDA MITSUNARI...

WHY!?
HE WISHES TO DIE WITH HIS LORD.


IN ADDITION, NOW THAT LORD TOKUGAWA IEYASU HAS ENTERED OSAKA CASTLE AND TAKEN CUSTODY OF THE IMPERIAL ADVISOR'S ORPHAN HIDEYORI, IT WOULD NO LONGER BE FOR A JUST CAUSE
NO ONE WANTS ANYTHING TO DO WITH ISHIDA MITSUNARI...
NOW THAT MORI TERUMOTO, WHO ENTERED OSAKA CASTLE AS COMMANDER OF THE WESTERN ARMY, HAS WITHDRAWN, AND EXPRESSED A LACK OF INTEREST IN FUTURE HOSTILITIES TOWARDS THE TOKUGAWA.

Hehe ...
This is the final curtain...
For them both.


Ucch ...
Uhhh ...

SAKON, NOW IT IS FINALLY TIME FOR US TO PART.
ス!
ス!

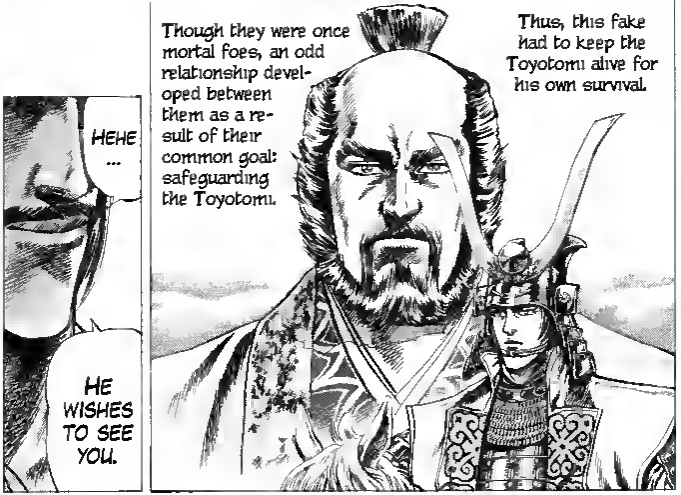
Y...
ES...

!!
!?
W... WHAT IS HE ...!?

I WANT YOU TO LIVE ON.
!!
MUST GO ALONE.
BUT I
!!
!!
.....

YES. I AM SPEAKING TO YOU IN SIGN LANGUAGE TO TELL YOU A SECRET NO ONE ELSE MUST KNOW.
AND REFUSED TO END YOUR OWN LIFE EVEN GROANING UNDER SO MUCH SHAME?
IS THAT SO? IS THAT WHY YOU HAVE LIVED ON...
.....
RIGHT.
WHAT IS THIS SECRET?
HOW-EVER!!
I MET WITH IEYASU...
BUT HE WAS A FAKE!!
WE HAVE TRULY KILLED IEYASU...
AND FOR HIS SAKE ALONE...
MY ONLY REGRET WAS ABOUT HIS EXCELLENCY TOYOTOMI'S ORPHAN, LORD HIDEYORI.
THIS FAKE MADE ME A STRANGE PROPOSAL.

AND HE WANTS YOUR POWER TO PROTECT THE TOYOTOMI CLAN.
HE WANTS TO JOIN FORCES.
THE SHADOW WARRIOR...?
IF SHIMA SAKON WERE STILL ALIVE...
Sakon understood immediately.
The moment the Toyotomi clan was abolished, the Tokugawa would have no further use for the current Ieyasu, the shadow warrior!! He would surely be eliminated!


Though they were once mortal foes, an odd relationship developed between them as a result of their common goal: safeguarding the Toyotomi.
Thus, this fake had to keep the Toyotomi alive for his own survival.
HEHE ...
HE WISHES TO SEE YOU.

THIS WILL BE QUITE AMUSING!
GO SEE HIM!

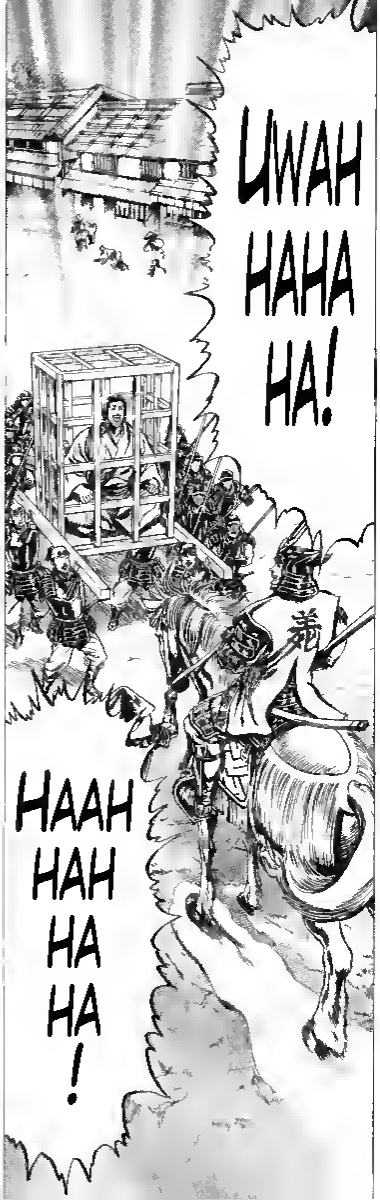
.....
H... HE RAISED HIS VOICE...

I UNDER-STAND ...
MY LORD !

HEH HAH HAH !
HEHE
HEH HEH HEH ...

UNNGH... WHAT'S GOING ON?

THOUGH THE WORLD WILL SAY WE LOST THE BATTLE, VICTORY WAS TRULY OURS!
MY LORD!


UWAH HAHA HA!
HAAH HAH HA HA!

LORD MITSU-NARI...
YOUR COMMAND IS A GREAT ONE!

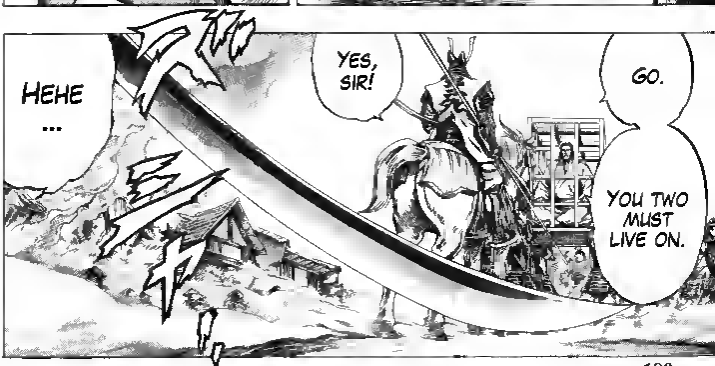
!
SAKON ...
ARE YOU PRAISING ME?
YES, I AM PRAISING YOU.
IT IS TRULY GREAT.

As Mitsunari proceeded to his death, Sakon approved of his very own order for the first time in his life. Mitsunari's heart was filled with greater joy than ever...
A general of the Warring States would appoint his most trusted and obedient man as his chief of staff.
For Mitsunari, an exceptionally able official, Sakon was the only man halfway comparable. He was so unparalleled that he was worth dividing a fief in half for.
NOW ...
I CAN DIE IN PEACE.

THEY WERE SO SERIOUS ABOUT WHAT APPEARED TO BE CHILD'S PLAY...
I WAS SO JEALOUS OF THEM...

WHAT A GREAT LORD HE IS...
Rokuro was deeply moved.

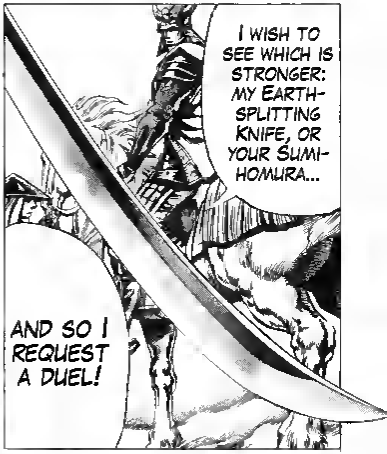
THEY COULDN'T SPEAK OUT LOUD
AS A PRECAUTION IN CASE
COME TO THINK OF IT, I'VE SEEN THEM PRACTICING THEIR SIGN LANGUAGE BEFORE


HEHE ...
YES, SIR!
GO.
YOU TWO MUST LIVE ON.

UNFORTU-
NATELY,
WHILE YOU
MAY HAVE
SURVIVED
SEKIGAHARA,
I SHALL
PERFORM
YOUR FUNE-
RAL RITES
HERE.
WHO
ARE YOU
!?

YAGYU HACHI-TORA.
MASTER OF THE YAGYU SHINKAGE STYLE...

NNGH. THAT'S THE FORMLESS POSITION OF THE YAGYU SHINKAGE STYLE...!
A STANCE OF NO STANCE...
HE'S QUITE SKILLED!


I WISH TO SEE WHICH IS STRONGER: MY EARTH-SPLITTING KNIFE, OR YOUR SUMI-HOMURA...
AND SO I REQUEST A DUEL!

THAT'S AN INTERESTING SWORD.

VERY WELL.
LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN KILL A DEAD MAN.
HEH... SO THAT'S THE SUMIHOMURA I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT...
HEHE... HACHITORA IS SKILLED ENOUGH TO SLAY SHIMA SAKON WITH ONE BLOW.
HACHITORA'S SWORD IS MANY TIMES THICKER THAN NORMAL. NOT EVEN SUMIHOMURA CAN CRACK IT!

But if their strength is equal...
Then the rest is simple.
The sword's length is the key.
Is said to be able to rend the earth in twain...
And even if it is struck, there is no chance of it breaking
One strike of the earth-splitting knife...

He will take Sakon's head in an instant.

If the Yagyu take his head, our master will favour us!
Hehe...

He attacked with the Earth-splitting Knife above Sakon's head!
Hachitora jumped!

ガキ
ガキ

YOU'RE MINE!
WHAT'S MORE, HE'S SWINGING THAT HEAVY SWORD AROUND LIKE A TWIG! M-MY LORD MIGHT JUST...
NNGH... IT'S EQUAL TO SUMI-HOMURA... OR EVEN GREATER!

Sakon's physical strength was far greater than normal, and Sumihomura ensured the assassin Yagyu Hachitora's...

...death!!
I'M BUNRITH!

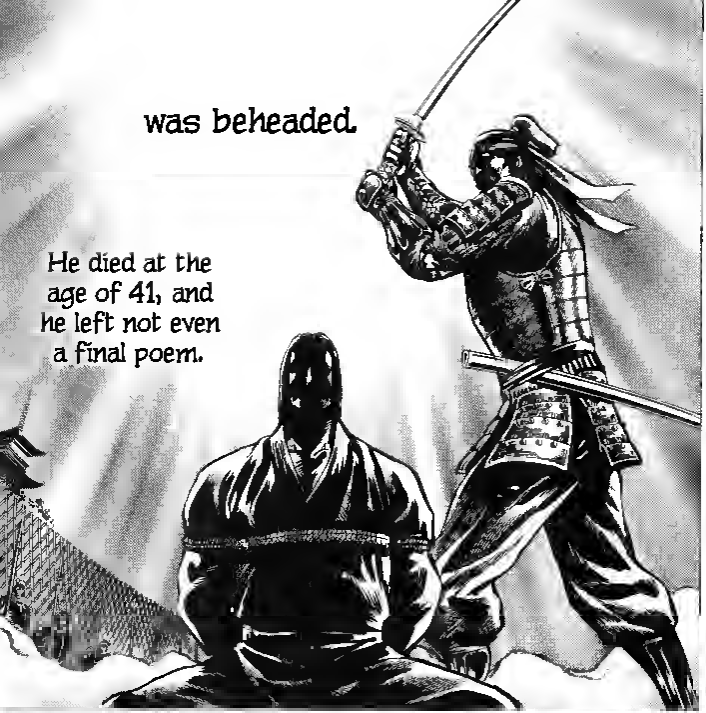
PFFT!
PHEW...

IT APPEARS I'VE UNDERESTIMATED HIM... HEHE... THIS HAS TURNED MOST AMUSING...

This was the prelude to a great feud between Sakon and the Yagyu that would continue for time God alone could measure.

October 1,
Keicho year 5
(1600)
The day was...

On this
day, Ishida
Mitsunari...



It rained that evening, and it was said that the heavens wept...

Volume 1: Sekigahara – END

■ジャンプ・コミックス

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1関ヶ原

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SAKON
左近
＝戦国風雲録＝

Chapter Four

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FIGHT TAZMO

To my fellow fans -

Recently, a member of the community named Blud typed out a informative, and well written page that detailed the exploits of Narutofan creator Tazmo.

The point of this was to further spread the awareness of who Tazmo is, what he does, and why it is wrong. However, things like these tend to eventually need updating, and that is why this has been typed out.

What Blud stated is all very correct. However, it must be brought to everyones attention that Tazmo has expanded into full blown, stand alone websites that he has referred to as "revolutionary services".

http://www.anime-plus.com

and

http://www.manga-plus.com

These websites seek to misinform manga and anime fans across the world into believing that his services are fair, the only one of their kind, and more secure than using other resources such as IRC or BitTorrent to get what you want.

The truth is as follows: Tazmo himself uses IRC and BitTorrent to get the files on his websites. He uses the FREE resources that every single one of you can also use, so that he can charge you various fees for getting what is FREE.

Tazmo is profiteering off of a FREE service provided by various members of the anime and manga community who donate their spare time to bring the latest manga and anime to you for FREE. They donate their time, work, and abilities in various areas, as well as use their own bandwidth to serve files.

There are various FREE ways to get and read the manga you want. There are free online readers such as http://www.onemanga.com as well as http://www.mangahut.com.

There are also resource websites such as http://www.mangahelpers.com, http://www.mangashare.com, as well as database resource sites such as http://www.mangaupdates.com.

There are thousands of people who work thousands of hours weekly to bring you the manga you love to read, as well as the anime you love to watch. They do it not to make a profit, but for FREE as a FREE service to the community that we all love very much. **EVERYTIME TAZMO MAKES MONEY OFF OF THEIR HARD WORK HE NOT ONLY INSULTS THEM, BUT INSULTS ALL THOSE WHO PAY FOR HIS SERVICE. Do the right thing, stop supporting Tazmo.**

Drafted by Kaleb. Inspired by Blud. Free distribution with any releases is encouraged.
Fight Tazmo. Put this and Blud's page in your releases to get the word out.